What is claimed is:

1. Use of a compound of formula

$$(1) \qquad \begin{array}{c} N-S \\ \\ R_1 \\ \end{array}$$

wherein

R₁ is C₁-C₁₆alkyl, C₂-C₁₆alkenyl or C₅-C₈cycloalkyl, each unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, -CN, -NO₂, -C=O, -C=S, -NR₂, -OR₃, -SR₄, -SO₂R₅, -COOR₆ or by a 1,3,4-oxathiazol-2-one radical; C₆-C₁₀aryl unsubstituted or substituted by one or more C₁-C₅alkyl, C₆-C₁₀aryl, halogen, hydroxy, acyl, -CN, -CF₃, -NO₂, -NR₂, -OR₃, -SR₄, -SO₃H, -SO₂R₅, -COOR₆ substituents or by a 1,3,4-oxathiazol-2-one radical; or a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic radical;

R₂ and R₃ are each independently of the other hydrogen; C₁-C₅alkyl; C₆-C₁₀aryl, or acyl;

R₄ is hydrogen; C₁-C₅alkyl; or C₆-C₁₀aryl;

 R_5 is C_1 - C_5 alkyl; or C_6 - C_{10} aryl;

R₆ is hydrogen; C₁-C₅alkyl; or C₆-C₁₀aryl,

in the antimicrobial treatment of surfaces.

- 2. Use according to claim 1, wherein in the compound of formula (1)
- R₁ is C₁-C₁₆alkyl unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, -CN, -NO₂, -C=O, -C=S, -NR₂, -OR₃, -SR₄, -SO₂R₅, -COOR₆ or by a 1,3,4-oxathiazol-2-one radical; or phenyl unsubstituted or substituted by one or more C₁-C₅alkyl, hydroxy, halogen substituents or by a 1,3,4-oxathiazol-2-one radical;

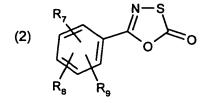
and

 R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 and R_6 are as defined in claim 1.

3. Use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein

R₁ is C₁-C₁₆alkyl.

4. Use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein there is used an oxathiazolone of formula



wherein

)

- R_7 , R_8 and R_9 are each independently of the others hydrogen; halogen; hydroxy; or C_1 - C_5 alkyl.
- 5. Use of a compound of formula (1) in the disinfection of the skin, mucosa and hair.
- 6. Use of a compound of formula (1) in the treatment of textile fibre materials.
- 7. Use of a compound of formula (1) in washing and cleaning formulations.
- 8. Use of a compound of formula (1) in imparting antimicrobial properties to plastics, paper, nonwovens, wood or leather.
- 9. A personal care preparation, comprising from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formula (1), and cosmetically tolerable adjuvants.
- 10. An oral composition, comprising

from 0.01 to 15 % by weight, based on the total weight of the composition, of a compound of formula (1), and orally tolerable adjuvants.